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SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF FY02 PRM AMBASSADOR'S FUND

PROJECTS IN JORDAN

Ref: 02 STATE 15910

¶11. SUMMARY: POST'S TWO PROJECTS FUNDED IN FY02 UNDER PRM'S AMBASSADOR'S FUND FOR REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE COMPLETED BY JULY 2003. THE TWO PROJECTS - PURCHASE OF A MINIBUS FOR THE COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER AT BAQA'A CAMP AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITION TO THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM CENTER (WPC) AT JEBEL HUSSEIN CAMP - RESPONDED TO CRITICAL, LOW-COST GAPS IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE IN JORDAN AND GENERATED GOOD PUBLICITY FOR THE EMBASSY. AMBASSADOR GHNEM INAUGURATED THE JEBEL HUSSEIN WPC ADDITION IN A JULY 7 CEREMONY. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS PER THE GRANT AGREEMENTS AND WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROJECTS' MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT BY THE LOCAL GRANTEES. END SUMMARY.

A Bus for Disabled Children in Baqa'a Refugee Camp

¶12. The Embassy funded the purchase of a 14-passenger minibus for the Community Rehabilitation Center (CRC) at Baqa'a refugee camp. The CRC purchased the bus in November 2002 and has used it efficiently since then as a multi-purpose vehicle. As of August 31, CRC staff and therapists had used the bus to conduct a total of 381 visits to three hundred disabled children at their homes. CRC staff also used the bus for one hundred and fifty field visits and meetings. The bus enabled CRC staff to bring eighteen children to attend social activities at the center and 45 to summer camp activities in August. Families of the disabled children were particularly pleased to be able to receive CRC staff at their homes.

¶13. The CRC governing committee and staff worked as a team and cooperatively managed the project. CRC was in continuous contact with the RefCoord office, UNRWA and the Department of Palestinian Affairs to facilitate the purchase of the bus. CRC submitted detailed interim financial and administrative reports in April per the grant agreement. The CRC has sufficient funds to cover the annual maintenance costs of the bus and will therefore continue to use it as a multipurpose vehicle, including reaching the disabled children in their homes and bringing them to the center.

More Room and Programming at the Women's Center
In Jebel Hussein Camp

¶14. The embassy provided \$20,000 to construct a one-room (107 square meters) addition to the Women's Program Center (WPC) at Jebel Hussein camp. The room is used as a fitness center, allowing the WPC to expand its popular hair-dressing training program and beauty salon, reaching an additional 100 trainees per month and generating more income for the center. The external construction was completed in February 2003 and the internal finishing was completed on May 30. The construction schedule was delayed by three weeks due to war-related increases in material costs but WPC eventually managed to obtain lower priced materials. Jebel Hussein WPC contributed USD 5600 of its own funds to finish and paint the addition and purchase equipment for the fitness center. Ambassador Ghnem inaugurated the new addition on July 7, generating favorable coverage in the local press.

¶15. This project is contributing to the WPC's overall financial sustainability, due to the growing popularity of fitness programs in Jebel Hussein camp. The extra space provided by the project also enabled the center to introduce more courses including evening fitness training, computer skills, international computer driver's license (ICDL) and internet training. More women and young girls are now coming from other refugee neighborhoods to participate in the center's training courses.

¶16. The WPC governing committee and staff worked as a

team and cooperatively managed the project. WPC was in continuous contact with the RefCoord office and UNRWA for mutual consultation and cooperation whenever necessary. WPC also submitted detailed interim financial and administrative reports on time per the grant agreement.

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